

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra



If you want to go ask Alice 'cause you think she'll know, go to p. 19

Saturday, December 27, 2025

FREE

Vol. 23, No. 52

NO SHADING THIS GRAY

Mammoth's Kate Gray has eyes on Italy

By Fisher

Kate Gray learned to ski before she could read. Pulled along by her dad at age two and raised in a house with three brothers where everything was a competition, Gray was primed at an early age for a career in competitive skiing.

That early start has carried Gray all the way to the world stage. Now 19, the Mammoth Mountain native earned a bronze medal in halfpipe at the Youth Olympic Games and has since posted top-American finishes at World Cup qualifiers, placing her in the middle of Olympic qualifying events for the 2026 Winter Games.

She credits her three brothers for the push to train hard enough to get there. Her two older brothers, snowboarders, got her into the terrain park

early on. When she got there, hitting the park was just another level of the competition she was already used to at home.

"Everything was a competition, and still is," she said. "Board games, who does laundry the fastest, who runs down the stairs quickest. There was a lot of energy, but it was fun."

Then, she joined the Mammoth Mountain Ski Team, where she was the only girl on skis in the park. But, again, the competition only propelled her to dig in and succeed.

"It was always like, 'The boys are trying this? Okay, I'll try it too.' We just pushed each other constantly," she said. "I never wanted to be looked down on because I'm a girl. I wanted to ski at the same level and try the

more GRAY, pg. 6



Kate Gray with brothers (from left) Andrew, Charlie and DJ

YOU SHOULD BE DANCING!!



Bucky and Woolly pose for June Mountain's opening day last Saturday. Photo credit: Karly Pearson.

TALK DIRTTY TO ME!

By Libre

The new Mammoth Town Hall project is well within budget, Public Works Director Haislip Hayes assured the Mammoth Lakes Town Council last Wednesday night. Except for one thing. The initial funding plans neglected to include walls.

Hayes requested \$800,900 (which the council subsequently provided) from the town hall's contingency fund,

in order to acquire DIRT (Doing it Right This Time) partition walls.

"We're actually pretty happy with that number," Hayes said. "We were thinking it was going to be in the neighborhood of just over a million."

The item passed quickly in a 5-0 vote, with limited discussion.

"This could've gone on the consent [agenda]," Hayes said,

when he presented the request, "but I'd be remiss if I didn't take the opportunity to provide you a chance to have questions about the city center."

The DIRT partition walls differ from traditional, permanent walls due to their flexibility, he explained. DIRT walls can be removed and re-positioned in order to change the lay-out of the floor plan. Also, they're cheaper.

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FasTrak to hell

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Give us the Bird

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Failing Plan

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Halfpipe Hotrod

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Paging Dr. Hartley

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ON THE FASTRAK TO HELL

It used to be, when you're younger, you go on vacation. I believe I'm going to be convalescing. I believe that is the proper term for ladies and gentlemen over 60 years old who are taking a bit of a break." -Jon Stewart.

While I'm not quite 60, I certainly identify with Stewart's remark, made as introduction to his final podcast of '25.

First order of business. My dealings with the Bay Area FasTrak Customer Service Center.

Because it sure makes me miss toll booth collectors.

I drove to San Francisco in late September to catch a friend's son's football game at Kezar Stadium.

Received a bill in the mail days later for the Golden Gate Bridge toll. \$8.

Wrote out a check for \$8, slapped the 10% surcharge (stamp) on the envelope, mailed it off and thought nothing of it.

Until I receive a notice about a month later alleging a toll violation. With a bill for \$35.75. And a threat to suspend my driver's license if I don't pay.

I dig into my bank account. I find a copy of the canceled check. I send it back with their paperwork and a short note. Done, right? No.

They send back a letter saying they've reviewed my inquiry and have determined that I remain in violation.

Now, full disclosure. I didn't follow all the instructions to the letter. I paid them with a business check (with my name scrawled above). And I forgot to put the toll invoice number on the check. But they did cash the damn check. And if they cashed the damn check, it had to be applied to something, right? If not my invoice, then whose?

And the address for both my personal and business checks is the same. And I'm the 100% owner of The Sheet, Inc. And by writing this editorial, this clearly has devolved into a "business trip" so my usage of a business check is justified.

Anyway, I was told I could petition for an administrative review, and either sign up for a videoconference or submit another written statement with supporting documentation. But I was required to send a \$35.75 check with my petition. If successful, the \$35.75 will be refunded.

But I am not hopeful. Judge, Jury, Prosecutor, Bureaucracy and AI is on one side of the fence and I'm on the other.

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra

"I won't insult your intelligence by suggesting that you really believe what you just said."

-William F. Buckley Jr.

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I imagine the real reason they're pissed off is that I wrote 'em a check, which no employee under 30 had ever encountered before.

Which brings me to that stamp I talked about. It was early December. I had invoices to mail out. Went to my stamp drawer. None. Out. Went to the Bishop post office. They were doing some construction in the PO Box area. So all the boxholders had to go to the counter to get their mail. Never mind all the usual customers. It was mayhem. No chance.

But I had to go to Mammoth that day. No big deal. I'd visit the P.O. there. Except the holiday line at the Mammoth P.O. was spilling out into the foyer.

So I drove over to see Sam at Mammoth Business Essentials. He was out. Says he has to wait in the same lines to get stamps. But recommended that I try Vons. "They sell stamps at the service desk," he said.

And indeed they do, and they don't even mark 'em up, and the guy at the service desk was super helpful and tracked down ten books for me.

Thank you, Vons. Credit where credit is due.

Another person I owe a debt of gratitude to is Bishop Country Club golf pro Steve Shibley.

I had scheduled a golf trip to Las Vegas in November, and didn't want to embarrass myself, so I signed up for a half dozen weekly lessons with Shib. I'd never taken lessons in my life, and it soon became apparent that it would be transformative.

As I texted my daughter, "When the time comes ... five golf lessons are worth about two decades of misery. A pretty good investment."

I get to Vegas, meet none other than Sheet writer Harold Hartley and his best friend Big Marv, and we head out to the Wildhorse Golf Club in Henderson.

Drill the drive off the first tee, hit a wedge to within 12 feet and make the putt. Carleton Makes Birdie. Now granted, it wasn't like that every hole, but it made a helluva first impression.

A few weeks back I attended a parent/admin. team "coffee and donuts" gathering at Home Street Middle School - this in the wake of the death by suicide of a student over the Thanksgiving holiday.

There were a slew of administrators present, as well as representatives from the Sheriff's office and Inyo County probation.

Two things stuck out. The first was learning that there's a student center
see LUNCH, pg. 18

MAMMOTHLAKES



REPERTORY THEATRE

DRIVING Miss Daisy

By Alfred Uhry



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LETTERS

A Failed Business Plan

Dear Editor,

Mammoth's business strategy has drifted far from what made it one of California's great ski mountains. Under Alterra, the resort has become a case study in how chasing short-term revenue can undermine long-term quality. Avalanche control is slower, lifts open later, grooming is inconsistent, and basic operational standards once taken for granted have deteriorated. Yet capital is flowing to new bars and more uphill capacity—without adding a single acre of new terrain—making the mountain more crowded and more dangerous.

This is the opposite of the Mammoth that once stayed open into July, built major infrastructure in a single summer, and reliably delivered world-class skiing. Despite better technology and deeper pockets, performance is objectively worse. The issue isn't the staff—it's a culture that puts quarterly returns above the mountain and the people who ski it.



Mammoth doesn't need another bar; it needs leadership willing to put skiing first again. If Alterra wants loyal passholders instead of one-season customers, it must restore operational excellence, expand terrain, and reinvest in the culture Dave McCoy built. Otherwise, Mammoth will become exactly what longtime skiers fear: a high-priced, limited-access resort for the few.

The mountain deserves better—and so do the people who ski it.

I make these comments from an informed perspective. Having held senior management roles at Snow Summit, Snow Valley, June Mountain and Mammoth Mountain, with 30 years in the ski industry as an instructor, coach, ski area manager, who worked closely with some of the very best owners and operators in the business.

Let me try to be helpful and specific:

For some, Mammoth's current business plan might appear successful—if the only goal is to maximize revenue for the next quarter. But if the vision extends to long-term health, customer experience, or the culture that once defined the mountain, the plan is failing, and failing badly. One fundamental problem is the increasing trend of asking guests to pay for next year's skiing months in advance. In most industries, paying for goods or services long before you use them is a red flag. It removes accountability, shifts risk to the customer, and erodes the incentive to perform at a high level. Skiers feel that erosion today. Under prior ownership—BA, Before Al-

terra—powder mornings at Mammoth were legendary. After a 4-foot "dumper" and blue skies, Patrol routinely had avalanche control wrapped up with upper-mountain lifts spinning by 10:45 a.m. Today, that reliability is gone. What part of Mammoth's operations has improved since Alterra took over? I struggle to name one.

In the past, the most intimidating aspect of skiing Mammoth was the mountain itself—its steep terrain, its weather, its challenges. Now, the biggest danger is other skiers. Alterra's first major capital expenditure was not terrain expansion, safety improvements, or operational upgrades. It was bars. Yes—millions invested to increase alcohol sales. Adding more alcohol consumption to already crowded slopes is not a recipe for safety or a quality guest experience. And then came more uphill capacity, but not one acre of new skiable terrain to go with it. BA, before Alterra, lift expansions were always paired with terrain expansions. Sometimes terrain was added years before the lift that would eventually serve it. That long-term thinking is gone. A few years ago, with excellent snow conditions, Mammoth announced an early closing because it had a backlog of summer work—specifically, replacing Chair 1. But the access road for that project did not interfere with skiing on Chairs 3, 23, or either gondola.

Compare that to the massive summer of 1982: the mountain stayed open into July, and crews simultaneously rebuilt the gondola building, constructed McCoy Station, installed Chairs 22 and 23, and carved more new terrain than at any point in the resort's history. And still opened on time in October.

Even basic operations have slipped. Last winter, after a two-day dry window following a storm, Chair 15—flat, beginner terrain, and one of the easiest lifts to groom—was half-groomed with deep berms on the sides, leaving beginners floundering. Avalanche control was still underway. Grooming crews were absent. At other resorts, when grooming falls behind, they close a run, finish the job properly, and then reopen. That seems to be outside today's business plan. And small details once considered essential—like sweeping snowy chairs, maintaining proper ramp-to-chair height, or ensuring safe load points—have been abandoned. Better equipment and technology exist today, yet performance has declined. This

is not a failure of individual supervisors—they are some of the best around. This is a culture problem, and it runs deeper than they can control. The best ski area operators always understood a simple truth: if you deliver great skiing and great fun, the money will follow. Chris Ryman at Vail believed that all employees should ski regularly to stay connected to the product. Dave McCoy built Mammoth on this very philosophy. Forty years ago, in the early '80s, the West hit 12 million skier days annually. Last season, it hit that number again—with vastly more people living within driving distance. Mammoth used to introduce over 100,000 new beginners to skiing every year. Now, on some sunny days, there are no first-time beginners. Growth today is concentrated not in skier days but in lift ticket prices. In the 1960s through the 1980s, as many as 20 new ski areas opened each year. In the last 15 years, only 13 have opened nationwide. Without a major cultural shift, Mammoth risks becoming a semi-private resort—where only those who can afford astronomical pass prices are welcome. Mammoth can fix this. Its history proves it. But it will require a return to the values that made the mountain great: operational excellence, respect for the guest, pride in craftsmanship, and leadership that places skiing—not quarterly numbers—at the center of every decision.

I am surprised that more of the Mammoth Lakes business leaders and skiers haven't called out the mountain, especially after the Alterra announcement that the Main Lodge would not be replaced; it is more than 75 years old! And the "Lodge" at Eagle remains a tent. I am surprised because unlike some other resorts where the ski area owns real estate where beds, restaurants and retail are controlled by the resort. Mammoth Mountain owns little of that and relies on the town to provide the beds, restaurants and retail. It is a very synergistic relationship and the town has, with newcomers and old businesses alike, upgraded that critical infrastructure. Where are those voices demanding that Alterra stop funding its improvements at other resorts with Mammoth Mountain's cash flow and shift its focus to, at least, go back to providing the quality mountain experience that it acquired from Dave McCoy?

Randy Short
Bishop

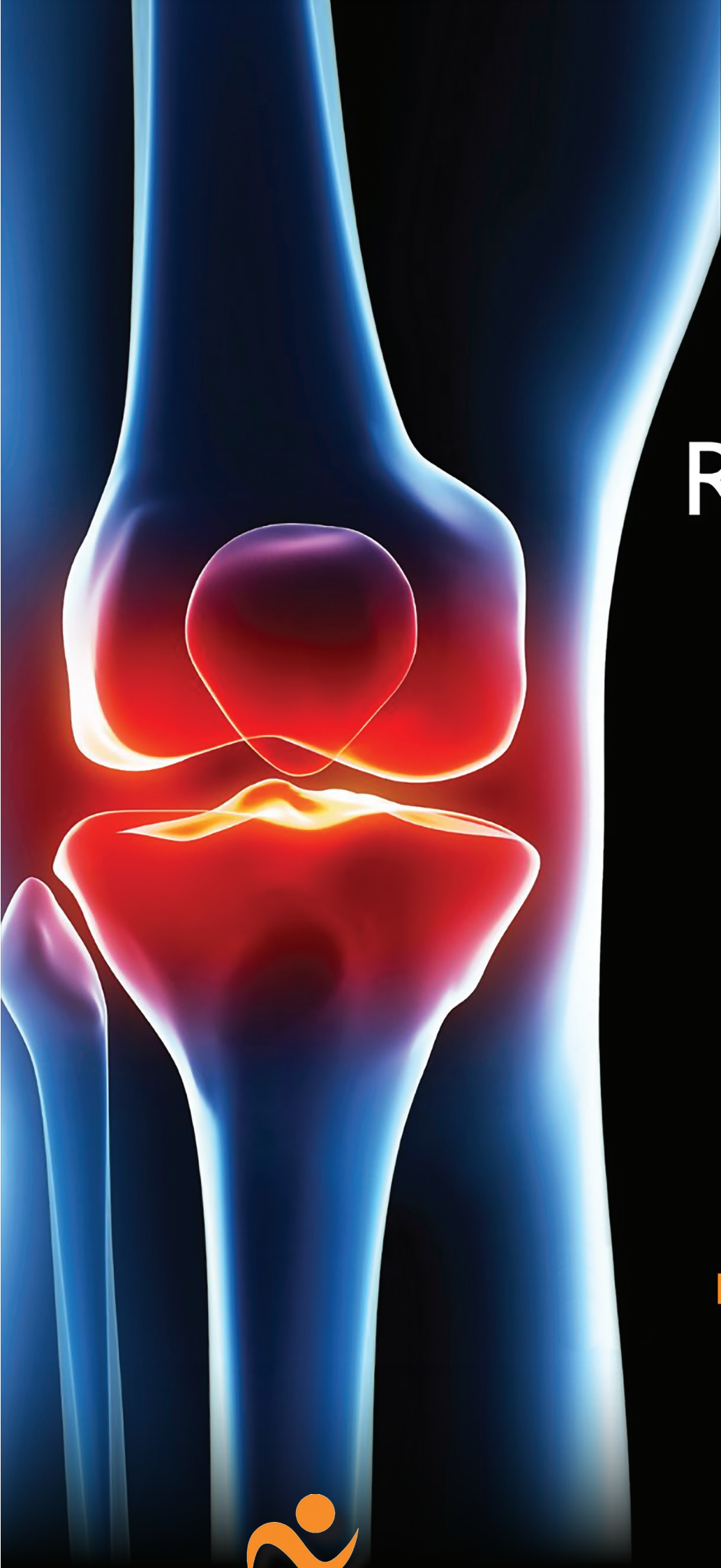
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GRAY

continued from page 1

same tricks.”

After progressing through local competitions and winning the USASA Futures Tour, Gray moved up to the Rev Tour, a national-level development circuit, earned podium finishes, and soon found herself competing at Junior Worlds. Before long, she was named to the U.S. team, where she is now in her fourth year on the development squad.

Halfpipe has become her focus this season, another credit to her upbringing in Mammoth, which offered Gray three different-sized halfpipes to ease into the sport: the 11-foot Mini Pipe, an 18-foot pipe and the 22-foot Olympic-size pipe.

“Learning transition here was huge,” she said. “Not a lot of people grow up with access to pipes like Mammoth’s.”

Training now takes her far from home. Gray spends much of the year traveling between international training camps and World Cup stops, bouncing from New Zealand and Europe to China, Canada, and Colorado. This season has been especially condensed, with Olympic qualifiers stacked closely together.

Despite the pressure, Gray said competition is where she thrives.

“I love the adrenaline,” she said. “There’s nothing like landing your hardest tricks under pressure. I try to remember that at the end of the day, it’s still skiing, and it’s still fun.”

That mindset has helped her navigate the unusual dynamic of Olympic qualification, where she is competing directly against teammates while also supporting them. The U.S. women’s halfpipe field is deep this year, and only a few spots are available. The U.S. is expected to send just three or four women to the Games, meaning every run this season carries outsized weight.

“We all want each other to succeed,” Gray said.

“We want to beat each other at our best.”

No matter where the season ends, Gray remains deeply connected to Mammoth. When she’s home, she skis with her parents, checks in with the Mammoth team, and makes time for younger athletes coming up through the same program she did.

“It’s a huge community, but so small at the same time,” she said. “I love throwing [the Mammoth Mountain Ski Team] support, showing love to the next generation and giving my input to them because that’s how I was raised.”

Gray is currently competing in Olympic qualifying events at World Cup stops in Copper Mountain, Calgary, and Aspen, with final team selections expected later this winter. To follow along with her competitions, follow her on Instagram @_kate_gray.

Update: Since this article was written, Gray qualified 3rd for the finals on Friday, placed 5th in the finals on Saturday (her career best), and was the top American.



World-Class Longevity Training

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Ted and Tammy Dardzinski, internationally recognized strength and conditioning specialists, have brought their combined 70 years of experience and knowledge to Mammoth Lakes with their world-class training center, TEDD High Altitude Longevity Training Center (TEDD Fitness). The TEDD training center is among the first of its kind in the US to focus on older athletes and longevity. TEDD is a gym specifically designed for those over 40 years of age. It is important to note that the methods utilized at TEDD have evolved over many years of practical, hands-on experience. Every piece of world-class equipment has been specifically and carefully selected for individuals with multiple physical issues, including new joints, back problems, and years of compensation and wear-and-tear. This center isn’t a health club designed to sell memberships and cater to a younger crowd; it’s a hybrid. It is not merely a restorative center; it is an innovative program that integrates the science of longevity and health span with sports strength and

conditioning. The TEDD focus is on reconditioning and transforming older bodies into rejuvenated and youthful versions by using advanced techniques.

As for the owners, Ted and Tammy, you couldn’t ask for two more experienced and knowledgeable coaches. Their careers span over decades and include extensive training and teaching in neuromuscular re-education and active nervous system recruitment (The Dardzinski Method). Ted and Tammy were pioneers in spinal cord injury recovery, founding and growing Project Walk Spinal Cord Injury Recovery Center into facilities all over the world. They have been interviewed on TV and in print highlighting their successes. Researchers from all over the world visited their corporate center in Carlsbad, CA to observe and learn The Dardzinski Method. Once, during a national television broadcast, Anderson Cooper inquired if Ted possessed expertise akin to that of a witch doctor due to the remarkable results he was achieving.

The results garnered by the Dardzinski’s continue to generate discussion. Over the years, Ted and Tammy have focused their extensive experience and knowledge of the body into longevity training. And now, they are offering the TEDD program to Mammoth! Clients who have consistently participated in the TEDD training program have experienced significant transformations. Individuals in their 70s have regained athletic abilities comparable to those a decade younger; chronic pain issues have been resolved; and their bodies exhibit better mobility than 90% of their peers.

You owe it to yourself to visit the TEDD High Altitude Longevity Training Center. See firsthand how it can benefit you and help you achieve a longer, healthier, happier, more functional health span.

Contact Ted today for a tour of the center and a free consultation. TEDD is located: Outpost Mall, 126 Old Mammoth Rd. 760.716.8773 | info@teddski.com

BURNING THROUGH WILDFIRE MONEY

By Klusmire

Inyo and Mono counties will be burning through \$4.6 million in US Forest Service grant funding over the next five years in an effort to reduce wildfire risks in the region.

Details about the Forest Service grant and its goals were presented at the Dec. 16 Inyo County Board of Supervisors meeting by Kristen Pfeiler, Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (COG) Inyo County Wildfire Coordinator. The COG submitted the grant to demonstrate regional support and need. The nationwide competitive, federal grant program is part of the Biden Administration's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Only 58 successful grants were awarded from 573 applicants, Pfeiler said.

The Eastern Sierra Communities Wildfire Defense Program is a collaborative effort that "pulls together the top concerns and priorities that we have heard consistently across all our local communities and that have been documented in each County's Community Wildfire Protection Plans," Pfeiler reported. Those wildfire protection plans are massive documents that outline wildfire risks and remedies in each county. The grant funding, Pfeiler said, "will provide the resources needed to implement those priority goals at scale."

Over the years, both counties have identified wildfire hazards and risks and have a good idea on how to reduce them. Fuel reduction, removing brush, weeds, trees and other vegetation, in and around communities and homes is at the top of the list of strategies to reduce the risk of wildfires flowing from public lands into towns and communities.

Spotting potential flammable material and getting it removed are two different things. "Getting the stuff out" of communities has been where individual community efforts "have stalled," Pfeiler said.

One of the primary goals of the grant program is quite literally, "getting the stuff out." Subcontracts will be completed with the public works departments in Inyo and Mono counties that will fund county staff to go into communities and do the gritty work of removing brush, weeds and other potentially flammable materials.

The goal is to clear fuels and create defensible space for about 200 vulnerable, private homes, whose owners request the fire-safe work. The ground work cannot be conducted on public lands, including Los Angeles Department of Water and Power property. Completing "fire hazard assessments" on 1,250 homes is also on the to-do list.

Composting will get a boost in both counties, with a goal of removing 9,500 tons of "hazardous fuel" and diverting as much as possible to the compost pile. At least 300 "community clean up" events are a goal. Those can include free green waste collection and disposal, waiving gate fees at landfills for green waste and

other community projects.

"The timeline is really broad" at this point, she added. The first several years of grant activity will involve identifying programs, projects, equipment and coordination with numerous partners. Doing the planned work should take up to two years. The final year will involve creating a sustainable program to continue making progress on reducing wildfire risks.

The main spending priorities have been determined, she added. Administrative costs over five years will consume about \$1.3 million, which includes fully funding Inyo and Mono's full-time Wildfire Managers (Pfeiler in Inyo, Wendi Grasseschi in Mono). County "biomass removal" will take about \$1.4 million, and hiring county public works staff and contractors for fuel reduction work will take about \$1 million.

Inyo County will receive roughly \$437,706 in grant funds for public works staff. Mono County will get about \$324,000 for staff hiring.

Several specialized pieces of equipment will also be purchased with grant funds. A grapple truck for picking up logs, wood chippers, and high-volume and high-intensity incinerators (called an "air curtain burner") are among the priority equipment purchases.

Having staff available to local communities is a key element of the program. The eight Fire Safe Councils and 32 Fire Wise Communities in both counties

which will receive monetary and staff support for their local efforts, which range from free green waste disposal events and fuels reduction.

Thirty-four communities, from towns and cities to subdivisions and Paiute reservations will be included in the wildfire protection program, she said. Local fire departments will also be included.

Taken together, Pfeiler said, the various grant-funded components of the wildfire protection plan "strengthen county operations, support community-driven mitigation, and sow the seeds for a durable, regionwide system for reducing wildfire risk."



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NO MUSSEL BEACHHEAD IN THE EASTERN SIERRA... YET

By Fisher

Gold built California. Now, a different kind of gold is infesting it.

The invasive golden mussel, first detected in California last October, is spreading fast and putting nearly every waterway at risk. The mussel, which can do severe damage to fisheries and water infrastructure, has already spread through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and down much of the west side of the state, effectively to the Mexican border.

Luckily, the mussel is not in the Eastern Sierra yet, and its introduction is “not inevitable,” according to CDFW Fisheries Supervisor Nick Buckmaster, who presented at both the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and at the Mono County Board of Supervisors earlier this month.

That is, if local agencies can pull together a management plan and pool enough funds to execute it before the fishing season opens in April.

“The analogy I’ve come up with is, we got pitched out of a plane, and we’re figuring out a parachute on the way down,” Buckmaster explained.

Golden mussels are close relatives of quagga and zebra mussels, which have plagued waterways across the United States for decades. But golden mussels are worse.

They can tolerate a wider range of conditions (saltier, colder waters) and survive longer out of water than their better-known cousins. They also have an invisible larval stage, meaning a boat can look clean and still transport live mussels in residual water trapped in motors.

Once the mussels are introduced to a

body of water, they are nearly impossible to remove. They clog pipes and destroy water infrastructure, forcing early and costly replacements, and as filter feeders they strip out the base of the food chain, undermining fisheries and collapsing fish populations.

“What it looks like in the infrastructure is unreal. It’s tremendous. These mussels grow rapidly and alter the water chemistry,” described Lori Gillem, representative for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). “What they’re gonna do to our fisheries and our water system up here is going to be unbelievable.”

When they die, the mussels leave behind a rank layer of shells and decaying tissue along shorelines, degrading beaches and further harming recreation.

Infrastructure costs can also skyrocket. In heavily infested areas elsewhere in the country, water and power bills have increased by 200-300% as agencies struggle to keep pipes clear, Buckmaster said.

Unlike the west side of California, the Eastern Sierra is not directly connected to the state’s water delivery network, which is already contaminated with golden mussels. That isolation gives the region a chance of escaping the infestation, but only if action is taken quickly.

Here, the main threat is boating. Trailered watercraft moving between infested waters on the west side and local lakes are the most likely pathway for introduction. And because golden mussels can survive in most Eastern Sierra lakes, the list of vulnerable waters is far longer than it was with earlier mussel threats.

“In the past, the risk [of invasive mussel species] was mostly limited to a handful of lakes like Crowley,” Buckmaster said. “Now, almost every recreational lake here could support them.”

CDFW and its partner organizations have developed a short-term regional plan centered on boat inspections and education.

At the core of the proposal is a county ordinance requiring trailered boats entering Mono County and Inyo Counties to pass an inspection and display a color-coded sticker on their trailer. Similar programs are already in place in Lake County and in Tahoe. The stickers would change monthly, making enforcement easier and turning inspections into a mandatory education point for boaters.

“The safest thing to do would be to shut down all boating,” Buckmaster said. “That’s not realistic, and it’s not something my agency is pushing. Inspections are something we can actually do, and they work.”

To support the program, planners identified the need for three additional inspection stations to supplement the existing LADWP station at Crowley Lake. The estimated cost for a one-year startup phase is about \$60,000, to be split among participating agencies. That figure does not include long-term administration or enforcement.

Nonprofit partners, including Cal-Trout, have also applied for roughly \$500,000 in grant funding to cover equipment and startup costs.

State support, however, will be modest.

CDFW has received one-time funding through Proposition 4 earmarked for golden mussel prevention, which Buckmaster said will be used to hire short-term staff, train local agencies and purchase inspection and decontamination equipment.

It will not fund a permanent, state-run inspection program.

“The state is in a huge deficit,” Buckmaster said. “We’re not going to be able to do this on our own.”

Instead, the state’s role will focus on training, monitoring and technical assistance, leaving long-term implementation to counties, water agencies and local partners.

He asked ESCOG last Thursday to consider taking ownership of the project, but board members expressed doubts about the board’s capacity to manage long-term funding or staffing for full implementation. Instead, they sent it back to the individual counties.

On Tuesday, Buckmaster told the Mono County Board of Supervisors that a draft ordinance mandating inspection stickers would need to be ready by the end of January to allow time for outreach and enforcement before the boating season kicks off in April.

He plans to meet with Inyo County, the Town of Mammoth Lakes, the City of Bishop, and local Public Utility Districts in the coming months to encourage a region-wide effort.

“You can rebuild after a wildfire,” he said. “You can’t get rid of these animals.”

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SIERRA LIFEFLIGHT PROVES A WINNER

BISHOP, Calif. (Dec. 18, 2025) – Sierra Lifeflight, part of REACH Air Medical Services (REACH), proudly announces its fixed wing team earned first place at the inaugural Global Medical Response (GMR) Clinical and Safety Competition, held in Mineral Wells, Texas.

This two-day event was the first time top-performing teams from GMR air and ground medical teams came together from across the nation for a series of high-stakes, skill-based challenges.

“This win is a testament to the skill, dedication and professionalism of our team,” said Lisa Davis, RN, clinical manager for Sierra Lifeflight.

Representing Sierra Lifeflight were Flight Nurse Devon “DJ” Jeffrey and Flight Paramedic Breana “Bre” Hope.

Competition Highlights

Eleven elite teams—representing ground advanced life support (ALS), rotor-wing critical care, and fixed-wing critical care—advanced from regional qualifiers to participate in the final event. With volunteers acting as patients and bystanders, each team navigated complex clinical scenarios and operational drills that tested their precision, timing and collaborative response. High-stakes situations included a patient with an acute respiratory emergency requiring ventilator support and critical medications mid-flight, as well as a fixed-wing mission transporting an organ donor while maintaining optimal conditions for organ viability throughout transport.

Meet the winners

Jeffrey has served with Sierra Lifeflight for 10 years, advancing from flight paramedic to flight nurse. He holds certified flight registered nurse (CFRN) and flight paramedic certification (FP-C) credentials, serves as flight training officer, and is widely recognized as Sierra Lifeflight’s local “vent wizard” for his use and teaching of ventilator management.

A flight paramedic with Sierra Lifeflight for almost three years, Hope holds FP-C credentials, and serves as operational base lead, supply officer and emergency vehicle operator course (EVOC) instructor, ensuring operational excellence across the team.

WALLS

continued from page 1

“We determined the cost of the partition walls was slightly cheaper than the hard surface walls,” Hayes said.

“Are these walls solid partitions?” asked mayor pro tem Brent Truax.

“Yes,” Hayes assured. “They have a variety of textures, depending on where they’re going, like white boards, magnetboards, fabric for sound insulation ...”

The partition walls have already been installed at the Community Recreation Center, where the staff is satisfied with the product, Hayes added.

“I prefer to have something like this not on consent,” former mayor Chris Bubser said. “It reminds us of things we might forget about otherwise.”

In July 2024, Mammoth’s council allocated \$29.5 million to cover the



Flight Paramedic Breana “Bre” Hope and Flight Nurse Devon “DJ” Jeffrey were recognized as the winning fixed-wing team in GMR’s inaugural Clinical and Safety Competition alongside GMR Chief Operation Officer Ted Van Horne.

construction contract and contingency for the town hall project. It also set aside \$2 million for interior soft costs, like furniture. This money comes from taxpayer sources and town funds, like the Transit Occupancy Tax (TOT).

“We’re recommending using the contingency so we’re staying within that original budget,” Hayes said at last week’s meeting. “We do believe we will have to go into the reserve funding ... but we like the idea of reserving that capital for other projects in the future and really trying to work within that contingency.”

The contingency fund is usually 10% of the total budget, Mayor Amanda Rice told the Sheet on Monday. Contingency funds are specific to the project at hand. If Rice’s calculations are correct, roughly \$3 million were drawn from town funds for the contingency fund of the town hall.

Rice said had some questions about the need to pull from the contingency fund to pay for the walls.

“From the start, we knew we were going to have to pay for these dividers,” she said. “I don’t know exactly why this

wasn’t initially covered.

Construction projects always cost more than planned, Rice remarked. The town initially tried to receive a grant from the state to help with construction costs. Their goal was to build a disaster safe space attached to the town hall. But when the money from the state fell through, the town had to carry the financial burden of the project.

“I think this project is more expensive than we initially thought it would be,” Rice said. “Which is why the contractor didn’t initially include the price of the walls.”

Rice explained while the project was expensive, she thought it was a financially sound decision. The town has been renting the space above the Vons pharmacy for 40 years. Sometimes, she said, it snows inside the hallways. During the “big year,” the town had to pay \$300,000 in snow removal fees.

“I just don’t want to rent for another forty years,” she said. “Building costs just keep going up.”

The town hall is projected to open next fall.

Statement of Abandonment of Use of Fictitious Business Name:

Photos Meow LLC

Photos Meow LLC
P.O. Box 2031
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This business is conducted by a limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on January 1, 2023. This statement was filed with the Mono County Clerk on Dec. 15, 2025

File Number 2025-0166
TS #2025-0145
(12/27, 1/3/26, 1/10/26 1/17/26)

Fictitious Business Name Statement The Following Entity Is Doing Business As:

Everhaus Hospitality

Everhaus Hospitality Management and Consulting LLC
2018 N St., Ste. N
Sacramento, CA 95816

This business is conducted by a limited liability company. The registrant has yet to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. This statement was filed with the Mono County Clerk on Dec. 16, 2025

File Number 2025-0169
TS #2025-0146
(12/27, 1/3/26, 1/10/26 1/17/26)

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BUSINESS ... AND FUN

DISTANT KEEPS IT CLOSE

By Libre

This month, Distant Brewing celebrated its ten year anniversary. Ten years of food, drink and community. The Brewery hosts open mic nights on Mondays, pool tournaments on Wednesdays, and live music on Thursdays and Sundays.

When I think of what makes Mammoth feel like home for me, Distant and the ritual of attending open mic nights immediately comes to mind. I always order a Sky Pillow IPA and sit too close to the performer, so the speaker is directly in my ear. Sometimes a friend comes with me. Sometimes I go alone.

Distant is indisputably my favorite scene in town. It's somewhere I always feel safe.

"Maybe it's the old police station vibe," joked local Distant frequenter Ruby Walker during an interview last Wednesday.

Maybe.

But what I really love is the familiarity. The boys across the room playing pool, the bartender with the big silver beard who always gives me a head nod and the locals discount, the rotating cast of ultra-talented minstrels strumming ballads on their guitars, and a dog or six, brushing against my legs. Even as more people flow into town for the ski season, Distant remains reliably homey.

"They cater to the locals, which has served them really well," Walker said.

The employees can confirm.

"We're here for the people," said Sergio Gonzales, the bearded bartender. Gonzales has worked at Distant for nine years.

Distant Brewing began as Black Doubt Brewing Company, founded by Drew Wallace and his then-partner in 2015. Black Doubt quickly became a Mammoth staple, churning out classics like the "Black Doubt Stout," a peanut butter dark beer that Distant still occasionally features on its menu. People like Gonzales and Brett Mance, now the head brewer, joined the team during these early years.

In 2018, Wallace teamed up with his brother, Kirk, and the pair became co-owners. The same year, the Mammoth Lakes Police Department moved out, and the brothers signed the lease on their current spot. Distant Brewing as we now know it officially opened in 2019.

Transforming the old rabbit warren of a police department into a brewery was a complicated process. The Distant Brewing team did all the renovations by hand. Gonzales and Kirk Wallace punched out the ceiling. They re-did the walls.



Some key members of the Distant Brewing team, from left to right: Brett Mance, head brewer, with his dog Mister Nelson, assistant brewer Callan Godshalk, co-owner Kirk Wallace, and long-time bartender Sergio Gonzales.

"We were just like, let's make it as cool as we can, and hopefully people will show up," Kirk Wallace said.

The intention behind various design choices, like the mural on the wall adjacent to the bar and the mountain range constructed of thousands of stickers perpendicular to the pool table, can be explained by Wallace's constant desire for his business to grow.

"We want this place to be constantly changing," Kirk Wallace said. "Our goal here is for it to be different every time you come."

Even the beer list changes weekly, Wallace continued.

Walker noticed these changes at open mic, which she attends and performs at almost every Monday. She described the seasonality of the crowd, like the consistent group of people jamming during the summer.

"Shoulder season was my favorite, because it was not as busy and the people were all locals I knew," Walker said. "It felt like less pressure and people actu-

ally listened to the people performing."

Now, the crowd has shifted again. When I attended open mic last week, there was not an empty chair in sight.

"I have to be ready to socialize with every single young person in Mammoth," newcomer Sierra Babcock said when I met her for a beer last Monday.

Wallace said he's been surprised by how successful his business is. But he's not satisfied yet.

"I want Distant to be the best business in Mammoth," Wallace said.

What makes Distant the best? As Gonzales would say, the Distant family.

"We all came together through a love of beer," Gonzales said. "The love of beer has made us love each other."

Gonzales then poured me a sample of his four favorites. A pink guava sour. A coffee stout. A peanut butter stout. And the oaky, delicious Saison. Yum.

Distant Brewing is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and from 11 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

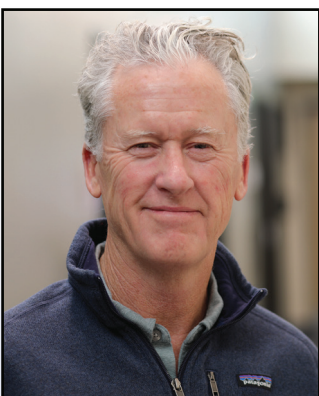
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FOR THE BIRDS (AND BISCUITS)

By Fisher

When asked where the idea for two top-rated chefs to leave their prestigious jobs and start a restaurant based on the biscuit came from, Brandon Brocia simply said, “beer.” Brocia, along with his wife, Theresa Brocia, make up the business side of the operation, while former Vulcania chefs Ryan Bock and Nate Johnson lead the culinary vision. Over beers, the team started brainstorming.

“We said, if we could start something, what would it be?” Brocia said. “We wanted to do something that was unique, something outside the box, that could be elevated without having a price tag on it.”

The resulting concept, Bird and the Biscuit, is the antithesis of Vulcania. Shifting away from fine dining, the team is creating a Southern-inspired, fast-casual restaurant rooted in approachability and affordability. A concept they say fills a gap in Mammoth’s dining scene, particularly for breakfast and quick meals.

“At some point, the town just hits price fatigue,” Brocia said. “Everything gets more and more expensive, and people get boxed out. We wanted to do something that serves the community without compromising quality.”

The restaurant will be located in the Gateway Center, in the space formerly occupied by zpizza, next to Looney Bean and Subway. The site was selected for its high visibility, ample parking, and easy access for locals. Construction is currently underway with an expected opening in March.

The menu will be tightly focused, with biscuits serving as the foundation for both breakfast and lunch. Guests can expect biscuit breakfast sandwiches, biscuits with house-made jams, honeys, and butters, and classic biscuits and gravy in the morning. As the day progresses, the chefs plan to pair the biscuit with fried chicken, sides, and rotating seasonal elements.

The simplicity is intentional. “We asked ourselves, ‘What can we make our focus?’” Bock said. And what embodies love more than the biscuit?

Nearly everything will be made in-house, from the biscuits themselves to sauces, jams, gravies, and even beverages like iced teas and lemonades. By cooking from scratch and keeping the menu streamlined, the team believes they can maintain both quality and consistency while keeping prices accessible.

A basic breakfast of a biscuit and coffee is expected to cost around \$7, with breakfast sandwiches starting in a similar range. Even the highest-priced menu items are planned to stay well below typical dining prices in town. “Just because there aren’t many [dining options in Mammoth] doesn’t mean you should charge whatever you want,” Brocia said. Though Bird and the Biscuit marks a creative shift, its founders bring deep experience to the table. Brocia is a longtime Mammoth restaurateur who previously owned Bleu Handcrafted Foods and now owns The Eatery at Mammoth Brewing Company. He also served as executive chef at the

Westin Hotel when it opened. Ryan Bock has lived in Mammoth for 11 years and spent nine of those working alongside Brocia. During that time, he helped open several local restaurants and served as a chef at Blue Handcrafted Foods, with most of his background rooted in fine dining. Chef Nate Johnson moved to Mammoth three years ago to open Vulcania after spending more than a decade working with the Voltaggio Brothers. Originally from Maryland, Johnson helped open and operate five of their restaurants before being tapped to launch Vulcania. Despite those resumes, the goal with Bird and the Biscuit is deliberately stripped-down. “This concept doesn’t have the ego

that fine dining has,” Bock said. “It’s just good food that makes people happy.” The chefs say working for themselves, after years of building concepts for others, was a natural next step. After three years working closely together, trust played a major role taking the leap. “It’s hard to find the right people to go into business with,” Johnson said. “But we work well together, and that made the decision easier.” Despite opening near the end of winter, the team isn’t overly concerned about seasonality. Thanks to its casual format, affordable pricing, and breakfast-focused menu, the team expects steady business even during the slower winter months.



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IN THE DEN WITH URSA

By Libre

Ursa co-owner and executive chef Steve Shatkin is a warm, easygoing guy. Big smile. Forearm lined with tattoos, like a kitchen knife overlaying a meat fork, the chemical composition for coffee, and the ursa minor constellation.

Shatkin is guided by an unorthodox philosophy: unreasonable hospitality.

"[It means] giving more than what's expected," Shatkin said. "It applies to restaurants; it applies to relationships."

Shatkin said he can't take credit for the phrase. It belongs to Will Guidara, a Michelin Star chef and one of Shatkin's idols. But it's clear by the bottle of Cabernet Sauvignon we shared over the course of our interview (*Drinking on the job. Noted. -Ed.*) that Shatkin brings an attitude of unreasonable hospitality to everything he does. He credits this mentality for the success of his restaurant.

Ursa is unique. The restaurant is only open Friday through Sunday and operates out of the same space as Mammoth Coffee Roasters, the coffee shop (at the corner of Old Mammoth and Meridian) also owned by Shatkin and his wife, Stacey.

The pair opened Mammoth Coffee Roasters in 2020. Five years later, in 2024, the Shatkins decided they wanted to expand.

"We generate most of our revenue between 6 in the morning and noon. The rest of the time, the place sits empty," Shatkin said. "So we started

talking about what else we could do."

The couple brainstormed. The result? A boutique fine dining experience with a seasonal rotating menu, featuring items like handmade squid ink fettuccine with poached lobster and a citrus beurre blanc reduction.

"I think people are surprised," Shatkin said. "We don't pretend we're not in a coffee shop."

Shatkin didn't grow up in the restaurant business. He never attended cooking school. He was a chemist by trade, raised by a mother who loved to cook. He gleaned everything he knew from her cookbooks, rummaging through the public library as a teenager, and later, followed chefs like Guidara on social media. Shatkin found commonalities between chemistry and cooking.

"It all just lends itself to food science," he said.

Now, before anything goes on the restaurant menu, Shatkin makes it at home with his wife. Her ability to pick out the nuances in flavor allows the dish to be perfected, Shatkin explained. For a dish to make the cut, they both have to love it.

Food has always been a bonding point for the Shatkins. Their marriage is the second for both of them: Steve and Stacey had two children each from previous partners. When they blended families, it always centered around food.

"We used flavor to bring the families together," he said. "One of the kids



Steve Shatkin, co-owner and executive chef of Ursa. Forearm tattoos out. Photo credit to Mammoth Lakes Toursim, Samantha Lindberg.

would get to cook with me. Everyone wanted to do it and they cooked whatever they wanted."

If the kids wanted to make pasta, it was always from scratch. If they wanted to make sushi, they had to attend a

sushi rolling class.

Raising their four kids together gave the Shatkins a nuanced perspective when hiring, Steve explained. They look towards hiring more marginalized people, sometimes even uplifting individuals who struggle with addiction through providing them with a job.

"We always consider our restaurant a house. We don't say front of house, back of house. Instead its kitchen and dining room," Shatkin said. "Because when you're at home, you don't say I'm going to the front of the house."

It takes a village, he added. "I want to make sure everybody's included in everyone else's view of what the restaurant really is. I can't do this alone."

Above all, Shatkin prioritizes fun. For him, running Mammoth Coffee Roasters and Ursa with his wife is exactly that.

"I always tell people if you're not having fun, change something," he said.

Looking towards the future, Shatkin hopes to franchise Mammoth Coffee Roasters and open more locations throughout the state. Ursa will continue to only operate in Mammoth. Starting January 1, 2026, the restaurant will be open Thursdays, too.

On Christmas Day, Ursa will have a tasting menu and a wine pairing. Seats are still available online: ursakitchen.com.

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Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m. *More info: See ad p. 12. And remember to catch all the NFL games right here!*
The Mogul happy hour 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the bar. Food and drink specials.
Main St. Pizza - *See ad this page for deets*
Distant Brewing happy hour Monday-Thursday from 3-5pm. \$1/off beer/wine/cider/seltzer/kombucha
Bar Sierra happy hour from 4-5:30 p.m. Thursday through Monday.

**Mammoth Rock 'n Bowl opens noon every day through January 4 (except for 2 p.m. on New Year's Day.*

Wednesday, December 24/
The rebooted **Wild Wednesday @ Liberty** is just what you need to get into the holiday spirit! This is the way to welcome Christmas.
Local fave Cassie Dunn plays Shelter Distilling in the Village at Mammoth. Time: 6-9 p.m.

December 26-27/
ZB Savoy (country) plays **Liberty** in Mammoth. Time: 9:30 p.m. No cover.

Sunday, December 28/
Skyler Lutes (Island/Reggae sounds) plays **Distant Brewing**. Time: 7-9 p.m.

Monday, December 29/
Open mic night @ Distant Brewing. Time: 6-9 p.m.

Tuesday, December 30/
Trivia Night @ Mammoth Brewing. Time: 6:30-9 p.m.
Pete Posie & Bar Jay Bar play the **Mountain Rambler Brewery** in Bishop. Starts 7:30 p.m.

New Year's Eve/
NYE Party @ Distant Brewing featuring live music starting 8 p.m., no cover and good vibes. 21+. *More info: distantbeer.com.*
Liberty features DJ ONEZie hosting an NYE Dance Party! No cover. All fun.
Balloon Bust NYE Party @ Wanaaha Casino in Bishop starting 8 p.m. Live DJ. Cash drawings every 15 minutes. Champagne toast at midnight & more.
NYE Limelight features fireworks viewing, no cover, champagne bat 'til 1 a.m. First come, first served. *Ad p. 13*
At June Lake Brewing, they get it done during the day. 12-8 p.m. Bring your green hat!
Clocktower Cellar NYE. \$35 cover. Champagne toast at midnight. Party favors. Opens early and closes late!
Lakanuki's NYE has music by DJs Kally Quezada X Burgs. \$75 for late night tix and \$150 for bottle service. Doors 9 p.m. Call 760.934.7447 to reserve.
NYE @ the Minaret Club in the Village (next to Toomey's). \$30 cover. DJ from 10 p.m. 'til 1 a.m. Champagne toast at midnight.
NYE @ Bar Sierra with DJ WLDCT. \$60 presale/\$100 @ the door. Time: 10 p.m. 'til late.

January 2-3/
Weekend apres parties @ Canyon Lodge. DJ. 21+. Starts 2:30 p.m.

TOWN STUFF

Wednesday, December 24/
Mammoth Christian Fellowship
Christmas Eve worship service @ the Mammoth Middle School. 1600 Meridian Blvd. Time: 6:30 p.m. *Info: Pastor Mark @ 760.914.3930*

Thursday, December 25/
Bishop Community Christmas Dinner @ the Tri-County Fairgrounds. Time: 2-5 p.m. Free dinner. Dessert potluck. And holiday music & cheer!
Independence Community Christmas Dinner @ the Legion Hall (201 South Edwards St). Time: 3-6 p.m. Bring a potluck dish to share and a wrapped gift for the gift excahnge if you'd like to participate

December 25-26/
Sunset Snowshoe Tours departing from Tamarack Lodge. \$\$\$ *Info/ register @ mammothmountain.com.*

Tuesday, December 30/
Lone Pine hosts Bishop in HS Boys' hoops. Time: 7 p.m.

New Year's Eve/
Village at Mammoth Firework Spectacular. Time: 9 p.m. Family-friendly festivities and a dazzling fireworks show.

Thursday, January 1/
Phase 1 of Mammoth's Plastic Water Bottle ban goes into effect. *More info: See ad p. 18*

UPCOMING

Saturday, January 3/
Woolly's first dance party of the season @ the Village at Mammoth. Music, cocoa & photos. Time: 3:45-4:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 4/
First tour of the 2026 season of Scotty's Castle grounds in Death Valley. Guided tour by park ranger. Cost: \$35. Register @ dvnha.org. Tours will take place every Sunday through March 29.

Tuesday, January 6/
Leadership training seminar graduate ceremony at the Business Resource Center (269 N Main St, Bishop) at 3:15 p.m.
Bishop hosts Mammoth in HS hoops. Girls play 6 p.m. with Boys to follow.
Mammoth hosts Bishop in HS Soccer. Girls play 1 p.m. with Boys to follow.

Friday, January 9/
Mammoth Lakes Repertory's production of Driving Miss Daisy, starring Juliana Olinka-Jones, Maurice Cooper and David Baron, opens and runs through January 18. *More info/tix: See ad p. 2*

Saturday, January 10/
Sage to Summit 5K Winter Race Series @ Millpond. Registration 8 a.m. and race at 9.

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Pay Range: \$26.25-\$32.55/hr.
Job Type: Full time, hourly, non-exempt
Benefits: Employee retirement with employer contributions, medical insurance, paid holidays, vacation, and sick accruals. (*Benefits available after successful completion of introductory period.)

Job Description: Primarily responsible for facilitation of day-to-day agency operations and support of agency operational functions. Not eligible for remote work.

Essential Job Duties:

- Coordinate staff meetings, events, and informational materials.
- Coordinate staff, volunteer, and donor appreciation/recognition, track donations.
- Provide orientation, training, and support to staff with technology, equipment, and facilities-related needs.
- Train, schedule, and supervise indirect service volunteers.
- Purchase and maintain inventory of office supplies, program materials, and staff uniforms.
- Provide day-to-day logistical support to staff in the absence of the Executive Director and Programs leadership.
- Oversee maintenance and cleaning of agency vehicles.
- Coordinate cleaning, maintenance, and repair of agency facilities and office equipment.
- Coordinate purchase, use, maintenance, and repair of agency phones and computers.
- Manage facilities security systems.

Shilo Inn is accepting applications for FT housekeepers, FT maintenance worker and Front desk/night auditor. Immediate Front Desk opportunity starting at \$18/hour. Please call Human Resources (Sarina Quintero) at 925.813.2331 or email your resume to squintero@marquishotelsgroup.com.

Country Glass seeks carpenters for window and door installation. FT & year round for the right applicant. Excellent pay DOE, with benefits/vacation. Will train the right hire with no experience. Must be solid, trustworthy and have a drivers license. 760-934-3587 or email your application to: Taylor@country-glass.com

Help Wanted



Elevate Your Career At Mammoth Hospital! We have an immediate need for the following positions:

- Preschool/Associate Teacher
- Maintenance Technician
- Housekeeper
- Environmental Services Tech
- Registered Nurse - Pediatrics

Mammoth Hospital offers; success sharing incentives program; staff development program; generous retirement match and PTO Accrual.

For questions, please email hr@mammoth. To view more positions and apply, pls.visit www.mammothhospital.org/jobs



Footloose Sports is hiring Bootfitters and Demo Ski Technicians for the upcoming winter season. We are looking for outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy skiing and prefer working in a fast paced, team-oriented environment. We are searching for individuals with experience but also provide paid training to entry level candidates demonstrating reliability, enthusiasm, and excellent customer service skills. This is a great opportunity to join a legendary Mammoth ski shop. Please submit a current resume to footloose@footloosesports.com.



Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (GBUAPCD) seeks an Information Technology Administrator to lead and oversee all information technology activities of the agency and work as part of the management team to fulfill the agency's mission to protect public health and the environment from the harmful effects of air pollution. The position is full-time and in-person based in Bishop. The annual salary for the position is \$105,072 to \$140,832 per year plus generous benefits. For more information, please visit www.gbuapcd.org/employment. Recruitment is open until January 4, 2026.

Help Wanted



Reservations Desk Clerk immediate opening at the Double Eagle Resort and Spa in June Lake CA (20 min from mammoth). Must have excellent customer service and computer skills. Full or part time, health benefits, fitness membership and PTO. Great place to work! Email Lodging@doubleeagle.com

Creskide Spa and Fitness Desk at the Double Eagle Resort and Spa, immediate opening for enthusiast team member. Help in creating a wonderful experience for our spa and fitness center guests. Customer service, computer, cleaning, food service. Full or part time, health benefits, fitness membership and PTO. Great place to work! Email Lodging@doubleeagle.com

Sweetwater Plumbing Inc. FT position for Journeyman Plumber and/or Apprentice Plumber. Full Benefits. Job is located in Mammoth Lakes. Contact 760-914-1266 info@sweetwaterplumbing.com

Help Wanted

Restaurant Server for Eagles Landing Restaurant at the popular Double Eagle Resort and Spa in June Lake CA. Experience in restaurant service, computers and working as team member are essential. Full and part time available, health benefits, fitness membership and PTO. Great place to work. Email Lodging@doubleeagle.com

Restaurant bartender for Eagle's Landing Restaurant at the popular Double Eagle Resort and Spa. Experience in restaurant bartending, computers and working as a team member are essential. FT and PT work available. Health benefits, fitness membership, PTO. Great place to work. Email Lodging@doubleeagle.com

Cooks and Prep Cooks jobs available at the famous Eagles Landing Restaurant in June Lake. We offer health benefits, fitness membership and PTO. A great place to work! Email lodging@doubleeagle.com



Mammoth Lakes Tourism is seeking a part-time, seasonal Winter Airport Field Surveyor to welcome visitors to Mammoth Yosemite Airport and encourage participation in a brief QR code survey. Shifts align with flights Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Sundays. Interested candidates should send an email to btruax@visitmammoth.com with the subject line: Winter Airport Field Surveyor with a short intro, availability and any relevant experience.

Business For Sale

Business For Sale: Established Coffee Roasting Company, and pop-up cafe with growth potential, located in Bishop, CA. See detailed listing at <https://www.bizbuysell.com> - Search Bishop, California

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<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/monocountyca>

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Petition to Administer Estate

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF ROBERT GEORGE STANG. MONO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CASE NO.: 25PRM20

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of ROBERT GEORGE STANG. A Petition for Probate has been filed by JOHN BREW and FREDERIC BRUCE DANIELSON in the Superior Court of California, County of Mono. The Petition for Probate requests that BREW and/or FREDERIC BRUCE DANIELSON be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of decedent.

The petition requests the decedent’s will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: January 8, 2026, 9:30 a.m., Mammoth Court-house, Department 1, 100 Thompson Way, PO Box 1037, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioners: Gian Carlo Simonetti, Esq. (SBN.: 279468), Wood Simonetti, 126 Old Mammoth Road Suite 218, P.O. Box 3837, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546; (760) 934-5821.

TS #2025-0142

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Entity
Is Doing Business As:

Gold Stone Notary

Katalin Kerekes
404 Lupin St.
P.O. Box 8225
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. This statement was filed with the Mono County Clerk on Nov. 19, 2025
File Number 2025-0159
TS #2025-0132 (12/6, 12/13,12/20, 12/27)

Mammoth Community Water District Sale of Surplus Goods

Notice is hereby given that Mammoth Community Water District (MCWD) will sell the following surplus items:

Make/Model: Ford F-550 4X4 Diesel Hydraulic Dump Flat Bed
Year: 2006
Odometer Reading: 56,595
VIN #: 1FDAF57P76EC67985
Minimum Bid: \$7,500.00
Item Number: 112825-53

Bid forms are available at the MCWD office or on our website at MCWD-Surplus-Bid-Form.pdf (dst.ca.us) and must be received at the District offices no later than 3:00 pm on Thursday, January 8, 2026. Each bid form must be submitted in a sealed envelope labeled with the item number.

Bids may be submitted to the MCWD offices, located at 1315 Meridian Boulevard, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 or

Notice of Ordinance

TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES. Notice is hereby given that on December 17, 2025 the Town Council adopted an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 25-07

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AMENDING TITLE 15 OF THE MAMMOTH LAKES MUNICIPAL CODE TO ADOPT BY REFERENCE THE 2025 EDITION OF THE CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS CODE, WITH CERTAIN ADDITIONS, INSERTIONS, DELETIONS, AND CHANGES THERETO.

by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Bubser, Sauser, Wentworth, Mayor Pro Tem Truax, and Mayor Rice
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
DISQUALIFICATION: None

A certified copy of the complete text of the Ordinance is posted and may be read at the Town Offices, Minaret Mall, Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, and /or a copy may be obtained from the office of the Town Clerk at a nominal charge.

Dated: December 18, 2025
JAMIE GRAY, Town Clerk
Town of Mammoth Lakes

TS #2025-0143

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Entity
Is Doing Business As:

Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra

Access Mammoth
1 Minaret Rd.
P.O. Box 7275
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This business is conducted by a non-profit 501(c)(3). The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein in November, 2003. This statement was filed with the Mono County Clerk on Nov. 19, 2025
File Number 2025-0161
TS #2025-0133 (12/6, 12/13,12/20, 12/27))

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Entity
Is Doing Business As:

Second Chance Thrift Shop

Access Mammoth
501 Old Mammoth Rd.
P.O. Box 7275
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This business is conducted by a non-profit 501(c)(3). The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein in November, 2003. This statement was filed with the Mono County Clerk on Nov. 19, 2025
File Number 2025-0160
TS #2025-0134 (12/6, 12/13,12/20, 12/27)



mailed to PO Box 597, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

To view or inquire about the item(s) listed above, please call the MCWD Purchasing Office during regular business hours at 760-934-2596.

MCWD makes no express or implied warranties or representations with respect to the condition of the vehicles and/or equipment listed above and all items are sold as-is.

TS #2025-0144

HARTLEY

FALLING OUT OF LOVE? CONSULT WITH DR. HARTLEY

Week 17. Wow. And my fantasy season in my own league is over. Done in by a 46-point performance by Puka Nacua. F*&^ck.

Fun fact: Every team in the NFC has been to a Championship game since 2010 ... except the Cowboys.

Steeler WR DK Metcalf, aka Big Pickens, is a dumbass. He was punching fans last week. What could he possibly gain by doing this? You know he is going to get sued.

The look on the chick next to the guy getting punched - priceless. She was thinking ... I was about to leave this loser. But now my baby daddy gonna be RICH, BIATCH!

Diego Pavia. Yeah, who? He apparently finished 2nd in the Heisman voting and then proceeded to post F*&K ALL THE VOTERS on social media. Nice touch. He had 15 minutes of fame this year and blew it up with ten seconds of jackassery.

Sanders fell to the 5th round in the draft. Where will this guy end up?

The Kansas State Chiefs. What the hell? News this week that the Chiefs are bolting across the river for a new stadium. That is one franchise I thought would NEVER move again. Their fans are wild. But now they are building a dome. To bring in a few more dollars from concerts. While destroying their home field advantage and fan experience. Dummies

Apparently there is still a need for therapists and folks to tell you the obvious. This was recently posted on Yahoo. The 7 signs your partner is falling out of love with you.

1. Communication Dries Up: They stop checking in, share less about their day, and conversations become rare or superficial, feeling more like an effort than a connection.
2. Less Physical & Emotional Intimacy: There’s a significant drop in hugs, kisses, sex, or even just touching; they seem distant and less emotionally open.
3. Avoids Quality Time & Future Talk: They find excuses to not be together, don’t initiate plans, and avoid discussing the future as a couple.
4. Increased Criticism & Indifference: Things they once found cute now annoy them, and they seem generally bored or indifferent to your gestures, failing to express gratitude.
5. Makes Decisions Alone: They stop consulting you on important matters.
6. Puts You Last & Prioritizes Others/Self: You’re no longer a priority; they’d rather be alone or with friends, don’t introduce you to their circle, and don’t seem to miss you when you’re apart.
7. Stops Making Efforts: You’re always the one initiating dates, conversations, or reconciliation; they no longer put in the work to make you feel special or solve problems.

Well ... no shit. Did you need someone to tell you this? If so, they are falling out of love with you because you are stupid. You’re probably playing Xbox all day and don’t read these signs.

I’ve got some signs for you that simplify everything:

1. Y’all ain’t doing it no more
2. She can’t stand to talk to you. As-

suming it’s the guy getting dumped. We stupid.

3. She’s hanging out with her friends and has new guy friends.
I think that sums it up, dummy.

‘Twas the night before Xmas
When all through the league
The playoffs were coming
Teams fighting for seeds
Cowboy fans were done
No one answered their prayer
Jerry’d hoped for the playoffs, but they wouldn’t be there

And Pickens all nappy
Lamar in his headwrap
Were about to settle down
To a long winter’s nap
When out in Kansas City
There arose such a chatter
Chiefs leaving Kansas City,
They got a new stadium, history and loyalty no matter

When what to our startled eyes should appear
Playoff seedings much different than those of last year
With no Mahomes and Kelce, maybe no Goff
Taylor told Kelce the wedding was off

To the beach in Barbados, to see the Great Wall
Vacation and strip clubs
You’ll play no more ball

As the season was ending, playoffs coming around
To 9-8 the Steelers came - first round playoff loss bound
Tomlin was strutting and chirping as if he’d won
And his QB was arrogant, but they would soon be done

The whole team the Chargers Herbert flung on his shoulder
And he looked like a surfer but stronger and bolder
How Harbaugh’s eyes twinkled, his unit got merry
His love for his QB, was creepy and scary

HE had a punchable face and a disgruntled receiver
His QB was a “winner”, but he was still no believer
He was Nick Sirianni - an unlikable slob
And his team had a sitter for him, cuz he can’t do his job
Vrabel spoke not a word, but went straight to work
Took the Pats to the playoffs
At the mention of Belichick, he looked down his nose
And to Tennessee, his middle finger he rose

He rose in his suite, the fans didn’t matter
Roger Goodell’s Xmas schedule, fans couldn’t be sadder
So they booed and they booed and he heckled them in spite
Merry Xmas to all, enjoy Josh Johnson, JJ McCarthy (injured) ...Brosner and Gardner Minshew (injured) Oladokun tonight

ON THE SLOPES

IT'S ALL ACCESS FOR "HALFPIPE HOTROD"

By Fisher

When Adam and Katrina Otten first brought their son to Access Mammoth, they couldn't have imagined that he would be dubbed "Halfpipe Hotrod Hudson" by the end of the season.

The Ottens are a family of seven, with five kids ranging in age from 15 to five. Hudson shares the title of youngest sibling with his twin brother, Grayson. Born at the onset of Covid in 2020,

Hudson faced significant medical challenges in his early years, including cerebral palsy. He is non-verbal, legally blind, and unable to ambulate independently.

The diagnosis meant the family often drove hundreds of miles to Loma Linda for specialized care and spent hours in doctor visits and hospitalizations. For a time, they considered moving from their home in Bishop to a more urban area with better access to medical services.

The Sheet covered the Otten family's struggle to navigate this care gap in its Dec. 21, 2025 issue, where reporter Lauren Miller noted that mom Katrina Otten said the family "started gathering boxes," convinced a move was their only option.

But in the year since, the Ottens have not only stayed in Bishop, but found hope and community on the ski hill, watching Hudson's smile glow as he whizzes down the slopes.

This was made possible by the staff at Access Mammoth (renamed from Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra), which Adam began noticing a few years ago.

"I would see these volunteers in orange and blue jackets taking people with disabilities on the slopes and doing different types of ski programs," he said. "I had no clue who these people were, but as my son is disabled, it got me thinking that maybe when he gets old enough he might be able to participate."

Participate he did. On day one, staff and volunteers got Hudson into a bi-ski, a device made for individuals who ski in a seated position, with a molded seat mounted atop two specially designed skis. That same day, he was on the chairlift and skiing down the mountain.

"When Hudson felt the cold air on his face and the wind rushing by, the movement of his bi-ski beneath him, he lit up," Adam said. "It was pure joy, the kind that stays with you."

Despite his medical and communication challenges, Hudson is fully cognitive. He understands what is going on around him, and he knows exactly what he wants. And what he wants is to ski.

Because he is non-verbal, Adam gauges his son's mood by facial expression. A big goofy smile? It's a go. A discouraged frown? Time to slow down.

Skiing always brings the former. And, as Adam quickly learned, Hudson is pretty daring on the mountain. He braved jumps, grinning ear to ear as he caught air. One day, a staff member took him down the mini-halfpipe in his bi-ski. He loved it immediately.

When the lift operator caught wind of the news, he gave him a name that stuck: Halfpipe Hotrod Hudson.

Soon after, the Ottens added flame stickers to his helmet to match the title.

Hudson grew in other ways, too. Before joining Access Mammoth, he was hesitant around new people. Katrina believes this may stem from being a "COVID baby" with limited early social exposure. But on the slopes, he opened up and was comfortable with whoever he was paired with that day.

The experience changed the family's entire outlook.

"It's changed our attitude from thinking we were going to have to pack up and move to a bigger city area just to meet his medical needs," Adam Otten said. "We still have to go out of town to see some

specialists, but it's this organization that really hooked us into staying here."

Over time, Adam has been learning how to "drive" Hudson's bi-ski so they can ride together, which is notable because Adam himself is fairly new to skiing.

He first put on skis only a few years ago as a chaperone for his older children, who had Ski P.E. through their school.

"I had no clue about skiing. I was somewhat scared of it. I never wanted to do it because I was afraid I was going to hurt myself," he said.

Ski PE paid for his lift tickets, and he



Hudson catching some air.



Hudson Otten geared up to shred.

learned simply by watching the instructors teach the students. Eventually, he became the school's Ski PE coordinator, and now he's working to connect that program with Access Mammoth.

"Through Ski PE, I learned of other students with varying degrees of disabilities who had no clue about Access Mammoth," he said. "So we are now getting those students on board."

In his view, Access Mammoth is far more than a recreation program.

"It gives families hope, gives kids dignity, confidence, and a chance to experience the world in ways they are too often closed off from," he said.

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LUNCH
continued from page 2

located in the basement of the High School that offers food, hygienic supplies and even clothes to students who need them. This is forward thinking.

The Middle School has a student center that's only open after school. And offers food but not other supplies or services.

The second item (which shocked me) involved student suspensions.

As of two weeks ago, there had been a staggering 130 suspensions handed out to date. Amongst a student population of 470 students.

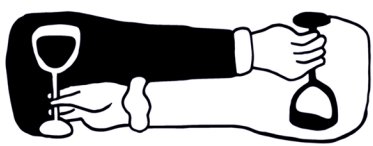
Now granted, many of those suspensions are likely going to repeat offenders

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BEVI BENE



www.bevibenewine.com



A final Sierra Wave goodbye to '25, taken on Sunday the 21st in Bishop.

- perhaps 20 students account for 80% of the volume - but if you're issuing that many suspensions, clearly the students have tuned you out and the punishment (boohoo, I have to stay home for a few days and "work" on my computer) is hardly punishment at all. So the suspensions serve to ingrain rather than modify behavior. Probably time to reassess and change strategy.

Some other notable business news to

mention along with the three featured stories this week on pages 10-12.

Robert Calvert and Matt Toomey have partnered to open the Minaret Club adjacent to Toomey's in the Village at Mammoth. It's a high-end cocktail lounge specializing in handcrafted cocktails and unique tapas. And it's got some cool LED lighting and comfy couches.

And whoever says you can't go home again (Well, it was the writer Thomas Wolfe, but nevermind) is mistaken. Bar

Sierra has Kerry Mechler back in the kitchen, and he's essentially brought his magic up the block from Mammoth Tavern to a larger venue. Scott Konzen (Grumpy's) is the bar manager and Jack Carter is the GM. And even Brian Duni-gan is pouring drinks. A real locals play.

And Ashley and Joe Robillard have bought the Mammoth Rock 'n Bowl, and have left the team in place.

The one change they have made is putting in a pretty awesome arcade.



PLASTIC WATER BOTTLE BAN

SINGLE-USE PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES ≤500ml

Phase 1 – January 1, 2025:

Town Operations & Special Events

- Sale or distribution of plastic water bottles ≤500ml will be prohibited at all special events that require a permit from the Town.
- The Town government and Town affiliated events will be prohibited from purchasing or distributing single-use plastic water bottles ≤500ml.

Phase 2 – January 1, 2026:

Water Bottle Sales

Businesses or individuals will be prohibited from selling or distributing single-use plastic water bottles ≤500ml within the Town beginning January 1, 2026.

Prohibited Items

Single-use plastic containers of 500 milliliters or less containing non-sparkling, unflavored drinking water.



Alternative Items





Learn more about other Town sustainability initiatives:
townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/451/Solid-Waste-Recycling-and-Sustainability

For more information, please contact Emily Zujewski, Sustainability Coordinator
760-965-3621 • ezujewski@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov

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NUNCA TIRE GRASA, ACEITE, GRASA NI RESTOS DE COMIDA EN EL FREGADERO.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 760-934-2596 OR VISIT WWW.MCWD.DST.CA.US

TAKING THE CAKE

By Lunch



*The 18th annual Independence Fruitcake Festival took place on Saturday, Dec. 20 at the Legion Hall. You can guess the theme. The costume winner was Kym Fraser, who cleverly dressed as the writer Lewis Carroll and proclaimed, "I created you all!" Approximately 30 fruitcakes were brought from far and wide - including two from out of state and one from out of country (France). *Fun fact of the evening, Judge Brian Lamb, who's been judging this festival for 15 years, informed me that Miles Davis's "Sketches of Spain" was the inspiration for Jefferson Airplane's "White Rabbit." You don't learn these things unless you attend Fruitcake Festivals.*



DID YOU KNOW?

→ Did you know the Town of Mammoth Lakes recently updated its short-term rental requirements with the Certified Properties Program?

THE ENHANCEMENTS ARE DESIGNED TO IMPROVE SAFETY AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS AS WELL AS VISITORS.

- Short-term rental property owners must register their properties with the Town under the Certified Properties Program, even if the property was previously rented.
- Transient rental inspections are required for all nightly rental units. Inspections are valid for up to four years.
- All Certified Properties must have a local, 24-hour emergency contact. These contacts must register as businesses with the Town.
- Certified Properties cleaned by a professional company must provide the contact information of the business. All cleaning companies must be registered as a business with the Town.
- Short-term rental operators must provide a copy of the Visitor Pre-Arrival Guide to all guests to establish community guidelines. The guide can be found here: [visitmammoth.com/sustainability/pre-arrival-guide](https://www.visitmammoth.com/sustainability/pre-arrival-guide).
- Short-term rental units found to be in violation are now subject to suspensions preventing rentals for up to one year, and administrative citations up to \$5,000 per day.

If you have questions about transient rentals, please contact the Finance Department at 760-965-3660.

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100 Ski Trail - \$275,000

Beautifully updated 2-bedroom plus home in quiet Ski Trail Mobile Park. Perched on a hill with Sherwin views & privacy, featuring new paint, flooring, remodeled kitchen, perfect full-time or vacation retreat.

MOBILE
BEDS: 2
BATHS: 2
SQ FT: 1160



The Lodges, 1101 Pyramid Peak Dr. - \$1,095,000

Rare single-level condo with attached garage and dog-friendly access to nature. Features hardwood floors, fireplace, stainless kitchen, serene water views, and deck—effortless comfort living near outdoor adventures.

CONDO
BEDS: 2
BATHS: 2.5
SQ FT: 1867



Swall Meadows Lot, 569 Rimrock Dr. - \$179,000

Prime 2-acre Swall Meadows equestrian lot with approved plans for a 3-bed, 2-bath home. Enjoy sweeping views, underground utilities, community water, and easy access to Mammoth Lakes & Bishop.

LOT
SQ FT: 85,378

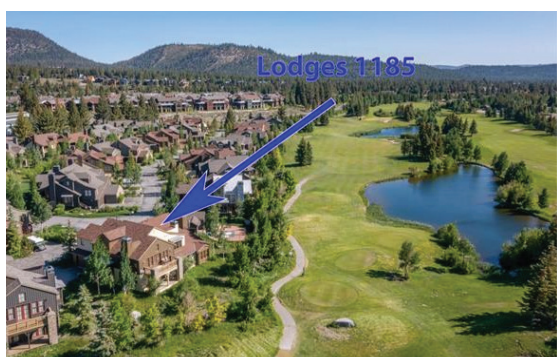
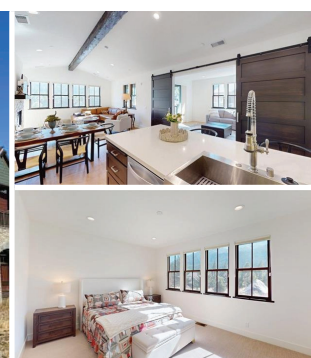


IN ESCROW!

CreekHouse, 1384 Timber Creek Rd. - \$1,825,000

Immaculate 3-bed + flex room, 3.5-bath CreekHouse townhome with 2-car garage, stunning mountain views, wood floors, two decks, and modern upgrades—sold furnished, blending rustic charm with contemporary comfort.

CONDO
BEDS: 3+flex
BATHS: 3.5
SQ FT: 2152



Lodges 1185



The Lodges, 1185 Pyramid Peak Dr. - \$1,799,000

Stunning townhome located on the Snowcreek golf course - spa adjacent. Like new condition with vaulted ceilings, gourmet kitchen, open views, primary suite with fireplace and large covered deck. Sold with furnishings.

CONDO
BEDS: 3/LOFT
BATHS: 3.5
SQ FT: 2762



SOLD!

Snowcreek V, 819 Fairway Circle - \$1,950,000

Rare 4-bedroom + den, 4-bath Pinnacle floor plan in Snowcreek Fairway Homes. Features vaulted ceilings, dual primary suites, stunning mountain views, 2-car garage, and luxurious finishes—perfectly positioned for mountain living.

CONDO
BEDS: 5+
BATHS: 4
SQ FT: 3215



LISTING DETAILS!

The Snowcreek Property Company

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